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[Redacted]

Middle East Situation Report #12
(as of 1100 EST, 11 January 1984)

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LEBANON/SYRIA

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25X1 [Redacted] there has been little progress on the security plan negotiations and that the overall violence in the Beirut area and in the mountains has increased. [Redacted]

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Two attacks on the French MNF contingent took place yesterday but caused no casualties. [Redacted]

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Saudi Prince Bandar told Assistant Secretary Murphy that the results of the tripartite (Lebanese-Syrian-Saudi) meeting in Riyadh were disappointing. He said that Lebanese Foreign Minister Salem had taken the position that he was not empowered to negotiate any changes in the security plan.

-- Salem's position probably reflects the Gemayel government's realization that the security plan, if implemented, might provide a window of opportunity for the MNF contingents to withdraw from Lebanon. Gemayel, whose position is largely dependent on the MNF presence, may be dragging his feet to stall implementation of the plan. [Redacted]

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We have heard, but have not seen, that a NODIS cable from Beirut providing Salem's readout of the Riyadh meeting revealed a continuing Syrian hardline approach to the overall Lebanese problem because they perceive that public pressure in the US will lead to an early MNF pullout.

-- Syrian cooperation on the security agreement is a tactical maneuver to facilitate such a pullout. [Redacted]

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Druze leader Walid Junblatt has publicly reiterated his objections to the plan and has stated that the plan is unlikely to be enacted within the next days. [Redacted]

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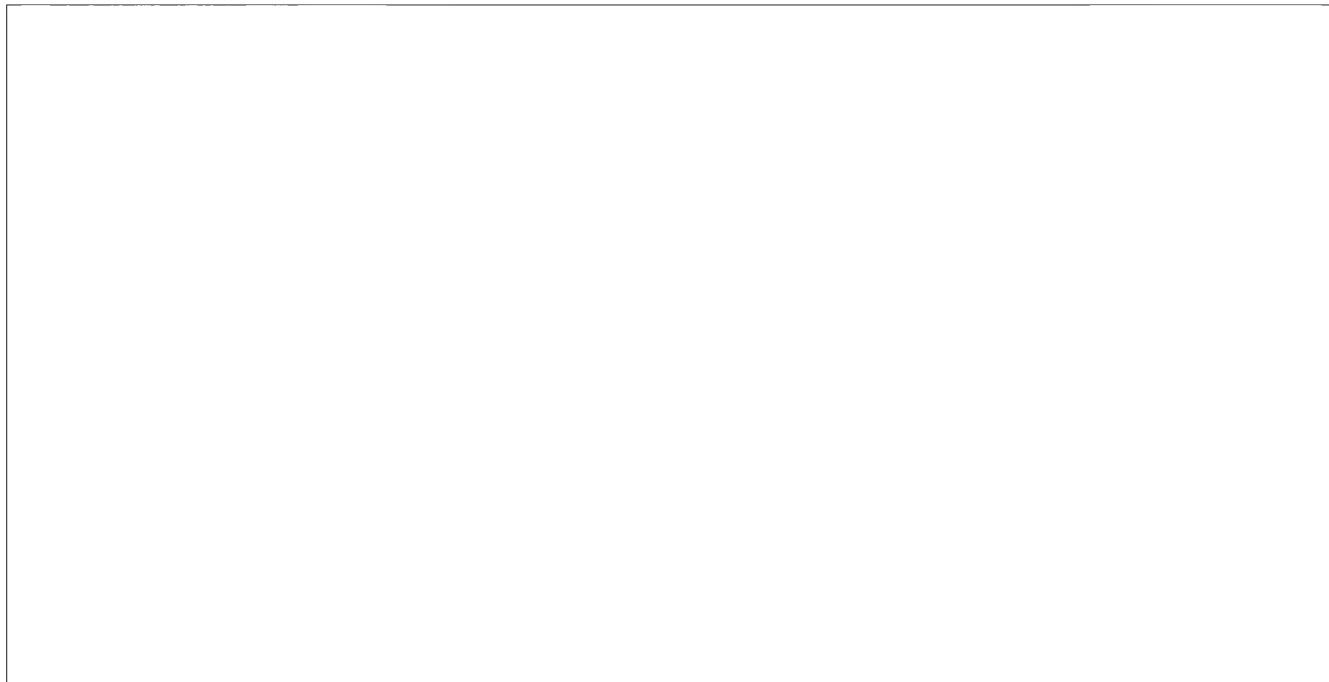
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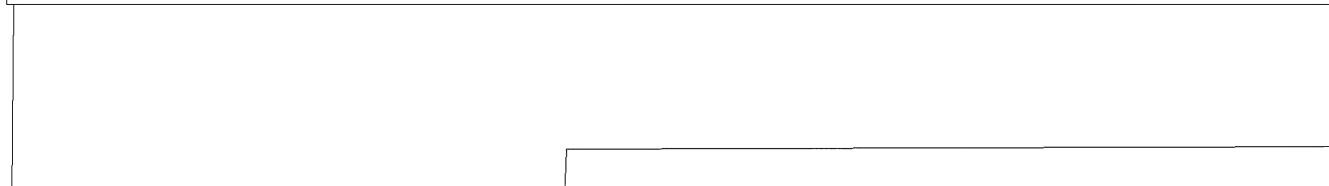


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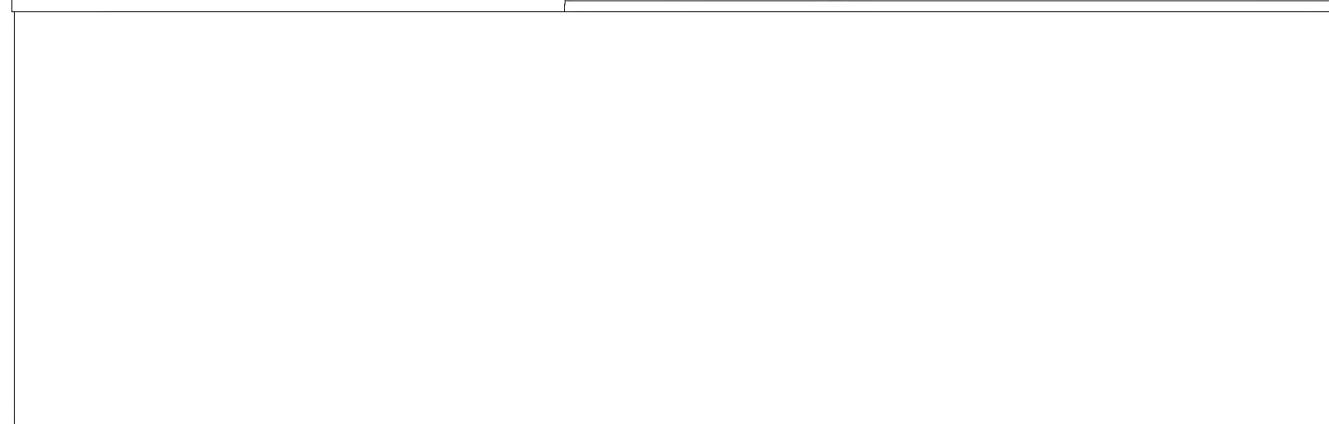
PERSIAN GULF



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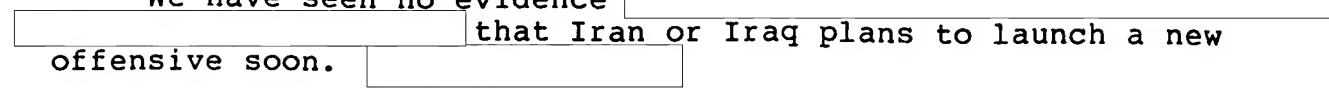
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THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

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We have seen no evidence



that Iran or Iraq plans to launch a new

offensive soon.

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